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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 5 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to bring the following to your attention, in your capacity as the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

The authorities of the host country, in an arbitrary and unjustifiable manner, denied the request made by Mr. Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh, Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, to travel to Princeton University, New Jersey, in order to participate in the intersessional meeting of the Working Group on the Crime of Aggression that was held from 11 to 14 June 2007.

Indeed, the United States Government, by refusing the request for travel permission for Iranian diplomats and representatives to attend meetings related to United Nations programmes and activities that are held outside the 25-mile radius from Columbus Circle in New York City, deprives my Government from exercising its sovereign right to participate in meetings and processes related to the United Nations.

Applying travel restrictions to Iranian diplomats is in itself an unjust, discriminatory and politically motivated policy, which not only contravenes the obligations of the host country contained in the Headquarters Agreement but also violates the provisions of the universal instruments on diplomatic privileges and immunities. Such policy is also contrary to the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character of 14 March 1975.

It is of vital importance that the host country be urged to respect its obligations and responsibilities arising from the Headquarters Agreement, as well as other relevant international instruments, and take urgent measures to avoid the repetition of such violations as above.

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

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